

**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FONSI)**  
**BLM ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (EA), DOI-BLM-WY-P070-2016-0041-EA**  
**Stinson Aggregate, LLC, for their Hepp Sand/Gravel Mine, WYW-168419**  
**Bureau of Land Management, Buffalo Field Office, Wyoming**

**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FONSI).** Based on the information in the EA, DOI-BLM-WY-P070-2016-0041-EA, which BLM incorporates here by reference; I find that: (1) the implementation of Alternative B will not have significant environmental impacts beyond those addressed in the Powder River Basin (PRB) Oil and Gas Project Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) (2003); (2) Alternative B conforms to the Buffalo Field Office (BFO) Resource Management Plan (RMP) (2015); and (3) Alternative B does not constitute a major federal action having a significant effect on the human environment. Thus an EIS is not required. I base this finding on consideration of the Council on Environmental Quality's (CEQ) criteria for significance (40 CFR 1508.27), with regard to the context and to the intensity of the impacts described in the EA.

**CONTEXT.** Mineral development is a common PRB land use, sourcing over 42% of the nation's coal. The PRB FEIS foreseeable development analyzed the development of 54,200 oil and gas wells. The additional development analyzed in Alternative B is insignificant in the national, regional, and local context.

**INTENSITY.** Implementation of Alternative B (Proposed Action) will result in a number of important beneficial impacts, both short-term and long-term, and two relatively minor adverse impacts. The beneficial impacts range from economic to improvement of Greater Sage-Grouse (GSG) habitat and forage. BLM will benefit from receiving royalties from the proposed sale of mineral materials (here, sand and gravel) from this site (totaling \$34,500.00), and Stinson Aggregate, LLC (Stinson) will benefit from having the sand/gravel available to sell. BLM and the State of Wyoming benefit as 14 acres (the entire mine area) of currently unsuitable GSG habitat in a BLM Priority Habitat Management Area (PHMA) (Wyoming Core Population Area) will be reseeded with a mixture developed by the Wyoming Game and Fish Department (WGFD) to result in suitable GSG habitat and forage.

Design features and mitigation measures included in Alternative B have resulted in increased beneficial environmental effects. The preferred alternative does not pose a significant risk to public health and safety. The geographic area of project does contain a unique characteristic as identified in the 2015 RMP and other legislative/regulatory processes: BLM priority GSG habitat/Wyoming Core Population Area. BLM used relevant scientific literature and professional expertise in preparing the EA. The scientific community is reasonably consistent with their conclusions on environmental effects relative to mineral materials development. Research findings on the nature of the environmental effects have minor controversy, are not highly uncertain, or do not involve unique or proven risks. The PRB FEIS predicted and analyzed oil development of the nature proposed with this project and similar projects. The selected alternative does not establish a precedent for future actions with significant effects. The proposal will result in PRB GSG habitat and forage improvement; this will aid State of Wyoming and BLM efforts to halt and reverse PRB GSG population decline. This project is consistent with State of Wyoming (Executive Order 2015-4) and BLM (BFO RMP 2015) GSG conservation strategies. There are no cultural or historical resources present that will be adversely affected by the selected alternative. No species listed under the Endangered Species Act or their designated critical habitat will be adversely affected. The selected alternative will not have any anticipated effects that would threaten a violation of federal, state, or local law or requirements imposed for the protection of the environment.

Field Manager: 

Date: 6/10/16